(c) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Assistance provided by Financial Institutions to units in backward areas

4276. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total assistance sanctioned by All Financial Institutions to the units located in backward areas during the last three years; and

(b) what is the total disbursements by the Financial Institutions to those units during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the latest available information, the details of assistance sanctioned and disbursed by all financial institutions in backward areas during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Sanctions	Disbursements
1988-89	5166.7	3365.0
1989-90	5151.6	3445.4
1990-91	6960.2	4030.7

World Bank suggestion on cut in number of Government employees

4277. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has suggested a 10 per cent cut in the number of the Central Government Employees during the coming three years; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have accepted the suggestion and if not what other action Government contemplate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Government of India have not received any suggestion from the World Bank to make a 10 per cent cut in the number of Central Government employees.

(b) Question does not arise.

Proposal to redefine RBI's role

4278. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to appoint a private company of the Chartered Accountants to study ways to redefine RBI's role; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of D.A. as pay

4279. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the present dearness allowance of 71

per cent Government is bound down to convert 50 per cent as pay as per the recommendations on the subject for the Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) The 4th Central Pay Commission did not make any recommendation for conversion of a portion of dearness allowance into pay.

(b) Does not arise.

Retirement age of employees

4280. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retirement age of employees of Public Sector Undertakings, I.I.T.'s and Several other institutions for all its employees is 60 years;

(b) if so, whether the present Committee which is looking after the rate of dearness allowance to Central Government employees and Public Sector Undertakings has been asked to look into this anomaly; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Public Sector Undertakings and autonomous organisations like I.I.Ts., etc. do not necessarily follow the pattern of retirement age applicable to the Central Government employees. The retirement age for all Central Government employees is 58 years except in case of employees like Workmen and Group 'D' staff for whom the age of retirement is 60 years.

(b) and (c) A Committee of Experts has been set up to go into, inter-alia, the wage structure and Dearness Allowance structure of Central Government employees, employees of Public Sector Undertakings, Nationalised Banks, Statutory Corporations, etc. and not matters relating to retirement age.

Realisation of Income-Tax from Shopkeepers

4281. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the concrete steps and follow up measures that have since been taken by Government to popularise and realise the Income-tax from shopkeepers, etc. as envisaged in his budget speech for 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The following steps and follow-up measures have been taken by Government to popularise the simplified procedure for taxation of small businessmen:

(i) rules for the simplified procedure have been notified;

(ii) a simple statement-cum-challan-Form 4A-has been prescribed. The printed forms will be made available shortly;

(iii) arrangements are being made so that the forms will be available at bank counters in order to bring in the single-window concept;

(iv) meetings are being organised in towns and cities in order to apprise prospective tax-payers about the new scheme;

(v) the first set of advertisements has appeared in English, Hindi and regional languages. More advertiements, both in the print as well as the electronic media are planned.

(vi) brochure has been formulated explaining the new provisions to prospective tax-payers. The brochure will be available for distribution shortly.